Diversion of foodgrains released for export

†2264. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI releases foodgrains to private traders for export;

(b) the details of the varieties and quantity of foodgrains supplied to the private traders during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the foodgrains released for the purpose are recirculated to the godowns of FCI through markets;

(d) whether it is a fact that one lakh tonne of wheat and rice have been released to M/s Piyare Lal and Sons of Delhi in connivance with FCI and NAFED; and

(e) whether Government would conduct a CBI enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The varieties and quantities of wheat and rice lifted by private exporters are as under:—

(*Fig. in lakh MTs/approximately*)

Year	Wheat	Rice		Total
		Par-boiled rice	Raw rice	
2000-01	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2001-02	3.83	11.09	8.76	19.85
2002-03 (upto 15.11.02)	5.13	6.18	18.01	24.19
TOTAL:	8.96			44.04

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Food Corporation of India has not reported any such case.

(d) Food Corporation of India has reported that M/s Piyare Lal and Sons of Delhi has lifted 1,942.5 MTs of wheat and 3600 MTs of rice for export.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Sluggishness in sugarcane prices

2265. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rising unsold stocks of sugar and also rising sugarcane arrears promised by the respective State Governments have resulted in lower sugar prices;

(b) if so, whether it is feared that around 30 per cent less sugarcane would be sown by farmers because of consistent sluggish prices;

(c) whether this has prompted the farmers to shift to other paying crops; and

(d) if so, what are the concrete remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (d) Due to higher level of production during the last four sugar seasons, there has been an accumulation of sugar stocks with the sugar factories. This has resulted in financial constraints to the sugar factories and the consequent increase in cane price dues of the farmers. Further, many mills have obtained the orders from the Courts for sale of sugar over and above their normal free sale quotas, due to which the prices of sugar have declined in the open market.

So far, no report has been received from any quarter regarding reduction in sugarcane area and shifting of sugarcane by the farmers to some other cash crops.